Torturing of animals for experiments

2388. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that animals are being tortured for experiments in different experimental schools;

(b) whether Government are aware that 84 horses have died in such experiments due to extraction of more blood to the extent to 18 liters from one horse;

(c) whether Government have prescribed any rules and regulations for such experiments; and

(d) if so, the action Government are going to take in such matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes Sir. Animals are being used for experiments in various Colleges including Veterinary Colleges, Medical Colleges, Scientific Institute, Educational and Research Institutes and also in the production of immuno biologicals.

(b) No Sir. While it is a fact that 84 horses have died in Haffkine Bio Pharma Corporation Limited, Pimpri, Pune during one Year, due to improper procedures being followed; these horses were being used for Anti Snake Venom Serum Production. However, a number of horses have also died in other institutes producing Anti Snake Venom Serum.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government has constituted a committee under section 14 to 20 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Act 1960 with the purpose of controlling and supervising experiments performed on animals. The Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals has formulated rules governing the procedures for experimentation, which have been notified through the Breeding of an Experiments on Animals (Control and Supervision) Rules 1998 and experiments on animals (Control and Supervision) (Amendment) Rules, 2001. As per rule all the scientific institutes/ establishments performing experiments/breeding have to register themselves with the Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals for which purpose an office has being established in Chennai.

Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals gives registration subject to improvements in the standard of ethical use of animals in experimentation. The Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animal also lays down the guidelines to be followed by all establishments for the maintenance of animals and animal houses.

Financial assistance to backward castes for higher education in Gujarat

2389. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the financial assistance given to the backward castes in Gujarat for their higher education through National Backward Class Finance and Development Corporation for the last three years;

(b) the number of persons benefited thereby, year-wise;

(c) the number of applications received, rejected and still pending out of those applications; and

(d) the criteria adopted for selection of persons for such assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) The Government of India is implementing the "Educational Loan Scheme" through the National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC). As per guideline of the Scheme, the eligible student submits loan application to State Channelising Agency (SCA) of the State to which he/she belongs and the proposal to draw funds from NBCFDC is submitted by the SCA. The SCA of Gujarat has not submitted any proposal during the last three years. As such, no amount has been released to the SCA of Gujarat during the last three years.

(d) The eligibility conditions for obtaining loan under the scheme are as under:—

1. The student should belong to Backward Classes as notified by the Central or State Governments from time to time.
2. The family income of the applicant should not exceed Rs. 42,412/- (double the poverty line).
3. The applicant should have obtained the admission during current session in the course and the institute approved by AICTE, Medical Council of India, etc., as the case may be.